

message, I keenly regret the circumstance which has prevented our permanent Diwan-President from delivering it. I am sure you are one with me in wishing for his speedy recovery and return to this seat which he has so worthily filled.

I realise, in common with you, the significance of His Highness' gracious message. It is a heavy responsibility, and it is mainly the hope, that our deliberations towards the peaceful advancement of His Highness' subjects will, in the true spirit of His Highness' Message, be characterised by mutual trust and good-will, that sustains me.

I am, as you are well aware, but one of yourselves, with this disadvantage, that I have been, except for brief intervals, rather a distant spectator than an actual participator in the life of this Council. I may say, at the very outset, that I shall have for that reason to draw largely on your indulgence, which, I trust, I shall have in abundant measure.

I once again welcome you to the Council.

We shall now proceed with the business.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Sale of Court Fee Stamps.

1. **Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House as to the income derived from the sale of court fee stamps for the last 12 years?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Member is referred to the receipts under "Stamps" in the printed budget estimates for the last 12 years.

Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House as to the income derived from the sale of court fee stamps for the last 12 years?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is not necessary to read out the questions.

President.—If there is any supplementary question, you may put that; that is enough.

Stamp defalcation in the Excise Superintendent's Office.

2. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state what has become of the departmental inquiry referred to in question No. 154 of the legislative session of 1103; what is the report of the Superintendent in the matter and what are the orders of the Government?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Final orders have not been passed yet. The matter is under correspondence with the Superintendent of Excise.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know how long this inquiry was pending?